

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 AF-06 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OPIC-03 IO-11 /080 W

----- 090140

R 061702Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5938

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0855

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: NO MPLA RECOGNITION YET

SUMMARY: MAJOR EFFORT WITHIN GOP FOR RECOGNITION OF MPLA BY FEB 4
FAILED. DESPITE PRESSURES, DEMOCRATIC PARTIES ARE HOLDING FIRM
IN OPPOSITION TO RECOGNITION. END SUMMARY.

1. ANGOLA: SOARES TOLD AMBASSADOR FEB 5 THAT A MAJOR EFFORT
HAD BEEN MADE WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE GOP POLICY ON
RECOGNITION BEFORE FEB 4 BUT THE VOTES WEREN'T THERE.
RUMORS HAVE ALSO BEEN CIRCULATING IN LISBON REGARDING AN ALLEGED
RC DECISION TO RECOGNIZE, BUT ANTUNES TOLD AMBASSADOR FEB 5
THAT RC HAD NOT MADE A DECISION.

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2. OTELO: LISBON MILITARY REGION COMMANDER VASCO LOURENCO
IN FEB 5 ADDRESS WARNED AGAINST NEW EFFORTS BY LEFT TO

CAPITALIZE ON IMPRISONMENT OF THOSE IMPLICATED IN NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT. HE CALLED STORIES THAT OTELO HAD SET CONDITIONS ON HIS RELEASE FALSE, AND AN ATTEMPT BY THE LEFT TO KEEP OTELO IN JAIL AS A MARTYR. A FEW POSTERS HAVE APPEARED AROUND LISBON WITH AN ATTRACTIVE PICTURE OF OTELO, DEMANDING RELEASE OF "IMPRISONED ANTI-FASCISTS." NEVERTHELESS, LEFT HAS NOT GONE ALL OUT TO EXPLOIT OTELO'S IMPRISONMENT.

3. AFM-PARTIES PACT: LOURENCO EXPRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT NEW AFM-PARTIES PACT WILL BE SIGNED BY FEB 11. SPOKESMEN FOR POPULAR DEMOCRATS, SOCIALISTS AND CDS AGREED THAT MAJOR DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN OVERCOME, BUT EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT PACT WOULD BE SIGNED AS QUICKLY AS PREDICTED BY VASCO LOURENCO. VICTOR DIAS, SPOKESMAN FOR FELLOW-TRAVELING MDP DISPLAYED DISSATISFACTION WITH RECENT TRENDS IN PACT PACT NEGOTIATIONS. "THE COUNTRY WILL PAY DEARLY IF IT DOES NOT LEAVE THE MILITARY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN POLITICAL LIFE." SOARES TOLD AMBASSADOR FEB 5 THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED. FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES, WHILE RESPONDING TO STATEMENT BY FRG FONMIN GENSCHER SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT MILITARY WOULD BE SUBORDINATE TO CIVILIAN POWER.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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BY FEB 4
TAGS: PINT, PDIP, PO, MPLA
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